predominantly own electic pumps and account for the larger share of the electricity consumption. A copy of the report has been circulated to all the States for taking appropriate action.

The resolution of the conference of Chief/Power Minister held on 3rd March, 2001 *inter alia* contained that the subsidies may be given only to the extent of State Governments capacity to pay the subsidies explicitly through budget provisions and the decisions of CMs of a minimum agricultural tariff of 50 paise may be implemented immediately. The ERC Act, 1998 mandates the Regulatory Commissions to decide the tariff so that it progressively reflect the cost of supply. The tariff orders passed by some SERCs reflect a trend in this direction.

In the new Electricity Bill, 2001 which has been introduced in the Lok Sabha, there is a specific provision that tariff should progressively reflect the cost of supply and cross subsidies be progressively reduced and eliminated.

Settlement of Displaced Hindus of Kashmir

†*357. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the places where the displaced Hindus of Kashmir have been settled alongwith the number of such persons;

(b) the details of the schemes for their rehabilitation;

(c) whether they can exercise their right to vote in the ensuing elections; and

(d) if not, what steps are being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) Majority of the Kashmiri migrants are living in Jammu region and Delhi. As per information provided by the State Governments/Union Territories concerned, these two places have registered 33618

† *Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

families and 19338 families respectively and there are 2710 families who are residing in other parts of the country, overwhelming majority of whom are Hindus.

(b) The State Government of Jammu & Kashmir's Sub-Committee comprising of Ministers of J&K has prepared an Action Plan for the return and rehabilitation of Kashmiri migrants involving a total amount of Rs. 2589.73 crores to enable these migrants, comprising about 1.25 lakh persons, at present residing in Jammu, Delhi and other States/Uts to return to the Valley. The Action Plan is to be implemented in phases in areas where clusters of migrants houses are available and where security is already provided. The Action Plan envisages rehabilitation grant per family @ Rs. 1.50 lakhs; grant for repair of houses @ Rs. 1 lakh for houses that are intact and Rs. 3 lakhs for damaged houses; grant for household goods @ Rs. 0.50 lakh and furniture @ Rs. 50 lakhs; interest free loan @ 1-2 lakhs per person; compensation for loss of income from agriculture upto Rs. 1.50 lakhs per family; interest free loan of Rs. 1.50 lakhs per family for investment in agricultural operations and sustenance of Rs. 2,000 per month for one year.

As indicated by the State Government to begin with, 166 houses forming 15 clusters have been identified in Srinagar and Badgam Districts which are considered safe for the return of the owners of these houses. The list of these clusters was published in the newspapers and steps were taken to identify the families and seek their willingness to return to their homes. About 50 families who were registered with the State Government's Relief organization, Jammu were contacted personally to obtain there consent for return to the valley on the basis of the package announced by the Government. Interaction meetings with some of these families were also held but none of the families have agreed to return to the Valley so far.

(c) and (d) As per the Constitution of J & K and the J & K Representation of Peoples Act 1957, the permanent residents of the State are entitled to cast their votes in the Assembly Elections of J & K so long as they continue to be classified as the permanent

residents of the State. There is a provision under the law of the postal ballots in respect of persons belonging to a particular constituency who are residing outside that constituency. There is also a provision under the law for constituting polling stations outside the jurisdiction of a particular constituency on security grounds to enable voters of that Constituency to cast their votes.

For updation of Electoral rolls relating to Kashmiri migrants, Zonal Officers have recently been designated at Jammu, Delhi and Chandigarh by the Chief Electoral Officer, Jammu & Kashmir to accept applications from desirous persons applying for inclusion/ correction/deletion of names from the electoral rolls.

Power Supply to Kerala

*358. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether NTPC has taken a decision to reduce and regulate the power supply due to Kerala;

(b) the arrears outstanding to NTPC from KSEB as on March, 2002;

(c) whether Government propose to initiate any steps to avert the regulation of power so as to avoid drastic power cut in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) In view of the decision of Kerala Government to sign the Tripartite Agreement with Government of India and Reserve Bank of India for One Time Settlement of outstanding dues payable by Kerala and issuance of bonds in line with Ahluwalia Committee recommendations, National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) does not propose to regulate power to Kerala.

(b) The total outstanding dues against KSEB as on March, 2002 stand at Rs. 1163.83 crores including surcharge of Rs. 228.63 crores.

(c) and (d) In view of (a) above, do not arise.